

DAVID R. CRAIG
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COUNTY EXECUTIVE CRAIG ANNOUNCES QUALITY OF LIVING INITIATIVES FOR CHURCHVILLE

(

Churchville, MD - April, 23, 2008) - - County Executive David R. Craig has announced the award of a \$15,000 grant to the Harford County Public School system for Churchville Elementary School. The funds were awarded by the Department of Community Services from the School Beautification Program.

The grant will assist the Churchville Elementary School PTA in their efforts to replace aging playground equipment which is not ADA compliant. Specifically, the PTA and school community will replace the intermediate playground equipment used by students in grades 2 - 5.

The School Beautification Grant Program is designed to build partnerships between schools, parents, local businesses and industry and the community. Harford County Government had \$150,000 available in the FY 08 budget for projects such as landscaping, playground improvements, painting, wildlife habitat and water quality improvements

Since 2002, Churchville Elementary School through grants awarded to the PTA from Harford County, has received \$33,000 to support improvements in landscaping and playground equipment.

"The School Beautification Grant Program has been quite successful in fostering partnerships to enhance the appearance, playground equipment and safety of our schools for all to enjoy," stated County Executive David R. Craig. "We commend the Churchville Elementary School PTA and school community for their hard work and commitment to the children of this school," the county executive said.

Grants are available to all schools within the Harford County Public School system, generally limited to \$5,000 per project. Organizations may apply for more than one grant within the fiscal year. Grant funding provides assist for materials or equipment only. No grant funds may be used for labor and related expenses.

"The School Beautification Grant Program is but one of many initiatives of the Department of Community Services that help improves the quality of life for the people of Harford County," said Mary Chance, Director of the Department of Community Services. "We are proud of this program and the many ways it enriches communities throughout Harford County each year," Ms. Chance remarked.

For more information regarding the School Beautification Grant Program, requirements, guidelines, and to receive an application, visit the Harford County Government website at www.harfordcountymd.gov, or contact the Department of Community Services at 410-638-3389, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

In addition to the award of the School Beautification Grant, County Executive Craig, accompanied by State Senator Barry Glassman, Audra Caplan, head of Harford County Public Libraries and Joseph Pfaff, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, also announced plans for a new public library and parks and recreation gymnasium project for the Churchville community.

The proposed FY 09 budget includes \$5,584,500 for design and construction funding for the library. The facility will be built as a "Green Building", further demonstrating the Craig Administration stewardship of the environment.

The facility will also house the County's first Science Learning Center in a public library. This initiative includes a unique partnership between Harford County, Battelle and the Maryland Science Center to provide science related materials for use by third graders through middle school.

Additionally, the proposed Churchville library will be part of a larger complex shared with the Department of Parks and Recreation, similar to the Norrisville complex. The proposed FY 09 budget includes \$4,201,830 for engineering and construction of the parks and recreation component to the project, which will include community meeting space as well as additional recreation space. The total projected cost for the entire project is \$12.9 million.

During the recently completed 2008 Maryland General Assembly session, State Senator Barry Glassman, District 35, helped secure \$100,000 in state funding to support the project.

Commenting on the joint public library and parks and rec project, County Executive Craig stated, "This project is an excellent example of a public and private partnership which will enhance the quality of life for citizens of the Churchville community for years to come. The joint venture of a library and parks and rec facility located on the same property has many advantages for our youth and their families," Craig stated.

The new public library and parks and rec facility is scheduled to open in July 2010.